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**From:** Albright, David  
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**Subject:** Background for meeting with Stan M

Below is the background information we have on our web site. I tacked on a small bit at the end to bring it up to date. Let me know if you think we need more.

Thanks, David

The state of California was delegated primary responsibility for implementing the Class II oil and gas underground injection control (UIC) program of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1983. As a part of its oversight role, EPA audited California's Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) Class II UIC primacy program in 2011 and identified substantial implementation deficiencies. In 2012, EPA conducted a review of aquifer exemptions that raised questions about the alignment of injection wells with EPA-approved exemption boundaries.

On July 17 and December 22, 2014, EPA sent letters to DOGGR and the Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) (collectively, the state) highlighting concerns, providing direction and requesting information about DOGGR's implementation of its underground injection control program for oil and gas-related Class II wells. EPA's letters responded to DOGGR's lack of progress in addressing these issues over the prior two years.

EPA has been meeting regularly with senior officials with the Department of Conservation, DOGGR, the Water Board and the Central Valley Regional Water Board to discuss the state's implementation of the Class II UIC program, the identification of Class II injection wells that may be injecting into non-exempt aquifers, the state's ongoing assessment of drinking water sources that may be impacted by improper injection, and to establish an effective process for reviewing and approving aquifer exemptions in California. EPA's December 22 letter directed the state to submit a Program Revision Plan by February 6, 2015, providing for full compliance with the SDWA by February 2017.

EPA received a copy of the state's Program Revision Plan on February 6, 2015. The Region is continuing discussions with DOGGR and the CA State Water Board regarding their February 6<sup>th</sup> plan for bringing the Class II UIC Program back into compliance. At the State's request, we are targeting a response letter back to the State in advance of their Legislative oversight hearing on March 10<sup>th</sup>. EPA's response will include a compliance schedule with specific deadlines and interim milestones for State actions.

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